



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

1 DECEMBER 2020

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Los Angeles – Hacker Who Sent Threats To LAX, School Districts, Gets Prison Sentence

(U) A hacker who issued dozens of phony bombing and shooting threats—including too LAX and Southern California schools—and who made a false hijacking report about a California-bound jetliner, has been sentenced to nearly eight years in federal prison. Timothy Dalton Vaughn, 22, of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, was sentenced for conspiracy, hacking and possession of hundreds of items of child pornography. Vaughn had pleaded guilty to federal charges last fall after his arrest in February 2019. Vaughn was a member of the “Apophis Squad,” which prosecutors described as a worldwide hacker collective that sent threatening phone calls and false email reports of violent school attacks.

SOURCE: 30 November 2020, [Los Angeles Times](#)

(U) Sacramento – California Faces Possible COVID-19 Crisis, Lockdown

(U) A rise in COVID-19 cases could overwhelm California’s health system within weeks and “drastic” action such as a widespread stay-at-home order may be needed to combat the threat, Governor Gavin Newsom warned. Although he supplied few details, Newsom said that unless the current trends slow, the surge in COVID-19 cases creates the potential for an order that could place further restrictions on businesses and keep the majority of people indoors in the most seriously-affected counties.

SOURCE: 30 November 2020, [San Diego Union-Tribune](#)

(U) Sacramento – First Guilty Plea Entered in Aryan Brotherhood Case

(U) One of the defendants in a murder and drug smuggling case involving the Aryan Brotherhood prison gang pleaded guilty in Sacramento federal court. Samuel Keeton, 41, pleaded guilty to a count of conspiracy to participate in a racketeering enterprise and conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and heroin. Keeton had been held without bail at the Sacramento County Main Jail since June 2019 facing charges of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and heroin for Aryan Brotherhood leaders in prison while he was out on parole.

SOURCE: 30 November 2020, [Bakersfield.com](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Minnesota – Gunman Ambushes Police, Sparks Hours-Long Standoff

(U) Albert Lea – A gunman in Minnesota ambushed police officers responding to a complaint before holing up in an apartment building and starting an hours-long standoff on 29 November. Police in Albert Lea were responding to reports of a noise complaint or weapons violation when suspect Devin Matthew Weiland, 21, fired multiple shots at officers, striking one officer in the chest and hitting at least two police squad cars. After the ambush, Weiland ran inside an apartment complex, where he holed up and allegedly fired shots with a high-powered rifle. Police cleared all civilians from the complex and shut off electricity to the building. The suspect later surrendered. Two men, a 52-year-old and 38-year-old, along with a 30-year-old Albert Lea police officer, were injured in the incident.

SOURCE: 30 November 2020, [CNN](#)

(U) Washington – Two Suspects Face Federal Terror Charges Over Train Track Interference

(U) Seattle – Federal authorities in Seattle have charged two people with a terrorist attack on train tracks, suggesting they were motivated by opposition to the construction of a natural gas pipeline across British Columbia when they interfered with the operation of a railroad in Washington state. The two suspects are accused of placing “shunts” on Burlington Northern Santa Fe tracks Saturday night. Such devices consist of a wire strung across the tracks, mimicking the electrical signal of a train. The devices can cause trains to automatically brake and can disable railroad crossing guards, investigators said in a complaint filed Monday. The pair are charged only in Saturday night's incident, but there have been 41 such cases involving the BNSF tracks since January, with a message claiming responsibility posted on an anarchist website early this year, the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force said.

SOURCE: 30 November 2020, [Associated Press](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Brazil – Group Armed with Guns and Explosive Attacked Several Banks

(U) Criciúma – An armed gang launched an early morning attack on a southern Brazilian city today. The assailants armed with guns and explosives cruised into Criciúma in several vehicles and preceded to blockade several streets. They also reportedly set fire to vehicles along the tunnel into the city from the main highway to prevent law enforcement from bringing in assistance from nearby towns. Over the course of two hours, they attacked four banks, blowing up the cash machines in each one. Two people, one a police officer, were injured during the siege.

SOURCE: 1 December 2020, [NPR](#)

(U) Germany – Two Killed by Car in Pedestrian Zone

(U) Trier – Two people were killed and up to 15 injured today when they were hit by a car in a pedestrian area of the western German city of Trier, the city's mayor said. Police said several people had been killed, having earlier put the death toll at two. A 51-year-old suspect from the Trier area was arrested and is being questioned.

SOURCE: 1 December 2020, [Reuters](#)

(U) Iran – Iran's Leader Promises Retaliation for Nuclear Scientist's Killing

(U) Tehran – Iran's supreme leader promised on 28 November to retaliate for the killing of the Islamic Republic's top nuclear scientist, raising the threat of a new confrontation with the West and Israel in the remaining weeks. A senior official told Reuters: “Definitely Iran will retaliate. When and how depends on our national interests. It might happen in the coming days or weeks, but it will happen.”

SOURCE: 1 December 2020, [Reuters](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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